

**Town of Barkhamsted
Incorporated 1779**

**Testimony of Donald S. Stein
First Selectman, Town of Barkhamsted
Before the Energy and Technology Committee
of the Connecticut General Assembly
March 15, 2012**

Good afternoon Senator Fonfara, Representative Nardello, Senator Duff, Representative Reed and members of the Committee. My name is Donald Stein, and I'm the First Selectman of the Town of Barkhamsted. I'm testifying today to support the intent of *S.B. No. 333, AN ACT CONCERNING THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE CONNECTICUT RESOURCES RECOVERY AUTHORITY'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS*.

I have been a member of the CRRA Board of Directors for approximately 10 months and was chairman of a subcommittee of the Mid-Connecticut Project Municipal Advisory Committee, chartered to investigate and recommend modifications to the method currently in place for appointing CRRA board members. That subcommittee, the CRRA Board of Directors and the Capitol Region Council of Governments have all examined the composition of the current board and have concluded that a higher level of municipal participation on the Board would be appropriate and beneficial.

Based on my observation and the sometimes difficult working relationships between with the CRRA board and management and its customers during the past 3 years, I would like to recommend that the approach contained in the raised bill be modified to allow Board members to be primarily appointed by member towns, while preserving legislative and gubernatorial appointments.

An approach similar to the following, which increases the board size to 13 members, would be extremely beneficial to the best interests of the towns using CRRA.

- Five members -- one each appointed by the Governor, President Pro Tem of the State Senate, the House Speaker, the minority leader of the State Senate, and the minority leader of the State House of Representatives;
- Four officials of municipalities that have entered into contractual relationships with the CRRA, individually or through their membership in a Connecticut solid waste authority, having a population of 30,000 or more, one of which shall be a representative of the City of Hartford;
- Four officials of municipalities that have entered into contractual relationships with the CRRA, individually or through their membership in a Connecticut solid waste authority, having a population of less than 30,000.

The eight members who are officials of municipalities that have entered into contractual relationships with the CRRA, individually or through their membership in a Connecticut solid waste authority, shall be selected as follows:

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- The municipal official representing the City of Hartford shall be selected by action of the City's legislative body. The other three municipal officials from municipalities with a population of 30,000 or more (exclusive of the City of Hartford) and the four municipal officials from municipalities with a population of 30,000 or less shall be selected by a nominating committee of one municipal official from each of the regional planning agencies that include municipalities that have contractual relationships with CRRA.
- Municipal officials selected by the nominating committee shall be submitted to the Mid-Connecticut Project Municipal Advisory Committee (MAC) or its successor organization for its review and action. Municipal officials approved by the MAC shall be recommended to the CRRA Board for review and action.

This approach is very representative of the recommendations from the organizations that have reviewed the board and its membership, and emphasizes that the customer base should be heavily involved in the management of the CRRA. An increase in the level of municipal participation will ensure that the municipalities are able to dispose of their trash as economically as possible and that all CRRA operating procedures and philosophies are consistent with that goal.

Thank you for your consideration.